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The Organized Farmer

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF FARMERS' UNION OF ALBERTA

9934 - 106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta. Phones: 25481 - 25965

VOLUME XV

Edmonton, Alberta, February, 1956

NUMBER 2

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Memberships have been coming in to Central Office intermittently during the past few weeks and the total sign up as at February 16th stood at 35,018. Local officials are urged to send in any receipts now on hand so that membership cards can be mailed out. Do not wait until your canvass is finished.

GENERAL SCIENCES

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President's Report

We have now had two weeks of reasonably good weather. Let's hope it returns. It has cheered everybody up, giving us zest to go forward.

Our emergency meetings have been well attended all over the province. At the meetings I attended, interest was high and in practically all cases, good discussion periods took place. Other speakers reported they had similar experiences.

The chief concern of our people is the squeeze agriculture is experiencing and naturally this matter received most consideration. But other matters were frequently discussed. I found our members concerned about our relationship with other organizations, with the federation of agriculture and the interprovincial council. I am pleased that these matters are being discussed and I hope Alberta can take the lead in giving sound guidance in farm organization across Canada.

The membership situation is improving; the last week has seen a very noticeable increase in members. Many locals have now reached last year's total and some have even surpassed the number. However, we still have a substantial number of locals that have made no report at all. To these people may I say, let us hear from you soon.

The winter board meeting is over; a report of the highlights is given in another section of this issue. I would draw your attention to plans for district conferences, consisting of district boards, presidents and secretaries of locals and also to plans for sub-district convention workshops. The matter of organization and instruction deserves the support and understanding of all.

Movement of grain from prairie points to terminals has shown a tendency to fall off. This is of great concern to us all because it is going to be most difficult to finance spring work if more deliveries are not made between now and then. In company with Alfred Gleave, vice-president of the Saskatchewan Farmers Union, I discussed this matter in Winnipeg on February 12 with the wheat Board and the transport controller and will report to you as soon as possible.

In regard to federal matters, I am sure we are all happy to note that the federal government is taking some responsibility in agricultural matters. Their action in assuming a substantial portion of the storage charges is a big step forward. The interim payment of 10 cents per bushel on milling wheat is also appreciated but it is most unfortunate that this could not have applied to all grades. However, judging by statements from government leaders, we have not yet convinced them of the seriousness of the agricultural situation. In this matter we are receiving support from opposition members, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and many prominent business leaders. I get very impatient at times but I do feel we are beginning to make real progress in the federal field.

The Organized Farmer

Published monthly by Farmers' Union of Alberta at
9934 - 106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta.

Printed by Co-op Press Limited, 10042 - 109th Street,



Edmonton, Alberta.

Subscription — 50c per year to F. U. A. members;
\$1.00 to non-members.

Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office
Department, Ottawa.

Advertising Rates in Organized Farmer:

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Full Page | \$60.00 |
| Half Page | \$35.00 |
| Quarter Page | \$18.00 |
| Business Card | \$ 3.00 |
| Classified Ads. | .07c per word (cuts extra) |

Marketing—The Chief Limiting Factor

(From The Western Producer)

A group of workers whose sole objective is improvement and progress within the farming industry recently presented what we consider a most significant brief to the Gordon Royal Commission in Edmonton. The group, the Alberta Institute of Agrologists, comprises the professional agriculturists whose work in field and laboratory is aimed at better farming and hence better farm living. Their presentation must be taken seriously, since their observations are those of informed people, close to the farmer and his widely diversified problems.

Briefly, the agrologists recommended a "go-slow" policy in the matter of new irrigation and land settlement. The presentation suggested that greater production could be secured on presently-cultivated lands, both irrigated and dry, and that further development should be considered only when market demands exceed the supply from such increased production.

Perhaps the most significant paragraph in the brief is the one which reads as follows:

"Apart from international commitments involving the immediate utilization of certain waters, the expansion of additional irrigated acreages in this province should be curtailed until the acreage now under water is more fully developed. In cases where large acreages of irrigated land are now being used for grain production, it is often a lack of capital that is preventing the development of a more intensive type of farming based upon livestock and feed crops. In the case of the most intensive

type of irrigation farm based upon specialty crops there is a lack of opportunity for further investment and development because of limited markets for the crops which can be grown."

The foregoing recalls to the writer a conversation with an Alberta agrologist who is a keen observer of irrigation development. The discussion centered on the need for further expansion of irrigation in the prairie region, in the light of experience gained on some of the more recently developed projects. Here is what our informant had to say, in substance: It is almost impossible for a farmer on newly irrigated land to get a contract for beets or vegetables or any of the high-value crops normally associated with the irrigation boom in southern Alberta. The farmers now in the field are well able to supply the limited market. The newcomers resort to the use of irrigation water on cereal crops, and in the long run that is completely uneconomic. Hundreds of these new irrigators are going to go broke long before the market is such that they can get into the kind of crops that must be the core of successful and profitable irrigation.

No one doubts the stabilizing effect of irrigation on agriculture, providing markets exist for the kind of production made possible by an assured supply of water, and impossible to grow under dry land conditions. But, having eliminated the original limiting factor, that of water supply, the new limitation of markets becomes just as real and just as confining as shortage of moisture.

In the west, a number of briefs to the Gordon Commission have advocated the speedy development of irrigation projects now under review. The down-to-earth presentation of Alberta agrologists is worth serious study by everyone interested in the future of irrigation development in the west. Certainly it may be assumed that the agrologists, in presenting their brief, had no other motive but a desire to assist agriculture, and to chart, on the basis of scientific observation and technical knowledge, a program of sound and sane development.

Surface Rights Convention Wants Better Deal for Farmers and Operators

Continued dissatisfaction with government agencies and private companies in their treatment and settlement of land compensation was shown at the annual convention of the Alberta Surface Rights and Protective Association, held last December in the new F.U.A. building.

ACT AMENDED

The brightest spot in the picture, accord-

ing to association spokesmen, was the 1955 repeal of a provincial industrial assessment on farm lands for tax purposes. It was mainly through efforts of association and F.U.A. officials that this provision was rescinded, the meeting was told.

It was pointed out by a farmer from the Stony Plain district, where numerous oil wells dot the countryside, that their assessment in some cases had reached \$167 per acre. Under the revised act, assessment on land parcels where oil wells are located may now be no higher than the highest on remaining land in the parcel, or, if none remains, on the parcel next to it. Farmers were advised to check their 1956 tax assessment notices to see that they conformed to the relief provisions.

Seek Larger Board

Oil problems, stated Andrew Borys in his presidential address, have spread over almost the entire province. In addition to the long-standing aim of higher compensation for each well drilled on a farmer's land, he urged the association to press for increased personnel on the board of arbitration dealing with farmer-company disputes. The present small board is unable to deal with most of the disputes for almost a year after they are lodged, the speaker reported, and suggested that a larger board could be divided into northern and southern sections to expedite matters.

Sharp criticism was levelled at the provincial administration for its policy in dealing with farmers whose lands, or portions thereof, are expropriated for public utility projects by government departments and private concerns. Flagrant disregard for owners' or operators' losses through damage and inconvenience was charged by the gathering and numerous cases were cited to bear out their contention.

In subsequent resolutions, the convention adopted a motion requesting the provincial highways department to give more consideration and better payment to farmers for right-of-way easement and borrow pits. Another motion adopted asked that high voltage power lines be not allowed to cross farm lands diagonally and that annual compensation be paid farmers for permanent easement of right-of-way.

Officers Elected

Andrew Borys of Edmonton was re-elected president of the association by acclamation, while Terrance Oldford of Red Deer and Mrs. Mildred G. Redman of Hardisty were chosen vice-president and secretary, respectively. New directors chosen were C. Moritz of Olds and W. S. Ross of Edmonton.

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Important Decisions Reached at Winter Board Meeting

Some weighty decisions were reached when the F.U.A. board of directors gathered in Edmonton February 7-10 for the winter board meeting. Topics dealt with by the 23-member body as it waded through a packed four-day agenda included wider service to members, relationship with other farm organizations, assistance to co-operative groups for mutual benefit, organization and administration. A long look was also given the role of juniors in the farm union.

Egg Plan Endorsed

"One-hundred per cent support" for a producers' egg marketing plan in Alberta was voted following a brief outline of the plan under consideration, as presented by Karl Kapler of Strome, president of Alberta Poultry Producers Ltd.

As a result of the endorsation, the F.U.A. will use its facilities at the local level to promote discussion and acceptance of the plan, if and when it is submitted to the provincial cabinet and then to the producers, it was decided.

Occupational Council

A proposal to investigate the possibility of setting up an occupational group council was also accepted. The proposed occupational council would be patterned after a similar organization in Saskatchewan. Farmer-labor-teacher representatives would meet periodically to discuss their problems and would attempt to evolve a policy beneficial to all.

Reference Library

In a move to provide members with information on a host of matters affecting farmers, the board decided to set up a reference library. It is anticipated that books, pamphlets and reports will be stocked in the library. When queries are received on any particular topic, the information will then be readily available.

Charged with the responsibility of proceeding in the matter were Fritz Wuth, Henry Young, S. A. Sanford.

C.C.I.L. Promotion

Feasibility of promoting co-operative implement sales through F.U.A. locals is to be investigated, the board decided. The decision was made following a short address by W. J. Harper, an official of Canadian Co-operative Implements Limited in Alberta.

Mr. Harper stated that small sales in 1955

had resulted in loss to most farm machinery companies. The companies, he said, could be expected to attempt recovering their losses by further raising the price of farm machinery in 1956. The most practical way of 'holding the line' on rocketing implement prices is for farmers to buy from their own co-operative, Mr. Harper suggested.

Ed. Nelson, S. A. Sanford and Charles Seeley were appointed to a committee to go further into the matter with C.C.I.L. officials.

Junior Work

Organization and activities in the junior field should come in for major review, the board recommended. The general feeling was that the junior section, as presently constructed, was incapable of properly fulfilling its intended function.

Plans call for arranging a meeting between the F.U.A. president, junior executive, senior advisory committee and interested outside parties, probably early in the spring. The whole field of junior work is to be studied and recommendations for a workable, province-wide program may be forthcoming. A program duplicating the work of 4-H clubs and similar groups would not be too practical, it was understood.

Annual Convention

Regarding plans for the union's next annual convention, the board decided this should be again held in Edmonton. In line with former practice, the 1956 convention should have been held in Calgary. However, a majority of the board members voted against the southern locale because of the much greater expense which would be entailed. Tentative convention dates were set for December 10-14.

Commission Brief

In dealing with a submission to the Royal Commission on Television Broadcasting, the board chose a committee of four to gather information and prepare a brief. The brief will likely be submitted to commission hearings at Ottawa by mail later this year.

It was suggested that individuals and groups wishing to express their views, criticisms or comments should refer them by mail to any of the committee members. Elected to the committee were Mrs. Olive Douglass, Vulcan; Mrs. Winifred Ross, Millet; A. H. Anderson, Medicine Hat; and Charles Seeley, Cherhill.

District, sub-district and local officials will be notified directly with regard to the schedule of workshops, conferences and conventions proposed for the coming weeks.

THE FARMER AND BUTTER SURPLUS

By HENRY YOUNG

The floor price of 58 cents per pound expires March 31. Soon the federal government will have to make the decision whether or not to extend it for another year.

Naturally the farm unions are trying to persuade the government to maintain the floor price on the present basis. The present rate of 58 cents means a retail price of about 65 cents to the consumer. This, when you consider the present high standard of wages and salaries in Canada, is not a high price for a commodity with the high food value of butter. Compared to the cost of many other things in Canada, butter at 65 cents is a bargain.

Dairying is one of the cornerstones of Canadian agriculture. A sound dairy industry helps to maintain soil fertility on which all agriculture is based. Canada on the whole is not a country naturally adapted to dairy farming. Our winters are too long. Dairy cows must be fed and stabled too much of the year. A large investment in buildings and equipment is required, and labor costs are high.

All this goes to show that unless Canadian dairymen can get a fair price for their product they will be forced to switch to other lines of production, perhaps adding to surpluses there. This is a point which wheat farmers as well as beef and bacon producers would do well to keep in mind.

In trying to get the present floor price on butter maintained, the main stumbling block is that we have a growing surplus of butter in Canada. Of course, as Mr. Gardiner points out, it is wise to maintain a considerable stock of butter in storage in a country of seasonal production such as Canada. However the fact is that the surplus has grown to such an extent that several deals have been made lately by the government disposing of large amounts of Canadian butter. The fact that these deals have been made at prices much below North American values has caused considerable unfavorable comment from some sources in Canada. Some interests are working against us and demanding that price support be withdrawn from butter or at least the support price be reduced considerably.

Now, the only reason that we have a butter surplus at all is because of the extensive use of cheap butter substitutes in Canada. Our butter stocks on hand now are quoted as 80.-

000,000 lbs. In 1955 alone 125,000,000 lbs. of margarine were produced and sold in Canada.

Actually the butter surplus is not large in comparison with the figures of butter and butter substitutes used annually in Canada. These total some 440,000,000 pounds. A moderate increase in the use of butter would use our whole production from year to year. To promote such an increase of butter consumption we people on the farms have the main responsibility. And we must practice what we preach.

I am afraid that a large part of the responsibility for the butter surplus lies at the door of Canadian farmers themselves. Reports from many storekeepers in rural areas state that many farmers are steady buyers of margarine. Even producers of butterfat have been known to buy margarine regularly while selling their own product. This of course is economic madness. Any dairyman who buys margarine is ruining his own market and deserves no assistance of any kind.

In fact there is no excuse for any farmer of any kind buying butter substitutes. If farmers are to get anywhere they must stand together and support each other. Then again, if butter prices decline, dairy farmers will be forced into other lines of farm production to the detriment of farmers in those lines.

Personally, I would not allow butter substitutes in the house. In spite of what the big interests say, I don't believe that they are equal in food value to butter. Probably we have a good case there for banning the sale of margarine in Canada. However, that is not my point just now.

I am pointing out that Canadian farmers themselves can deal with the butter surplus problem, first by using no substitutes, however cheap. Second by promoting the sale of butter through their many connections among the urban population. If all Canadian farmers will only get behind their own industry instead of patronizing the big commercial interests who are making millions out of the sale of margarine, the butter surplus would soon disappear and there would be no difficulty in maintaining the present price level. It is not too high.

Another reason why butter substitutes should not be used is that they are made mainly out of vegetable oils imported from the U.S.A. Already Canada is buying far more from the U.S. than she is selling there. Many of our imports such as cotton and citrus fruits are necessary. But no one can argue that it is necessary to spend Canadian money on importing material we do not need, to make substitutes for good Canadian butter. Let's cut out the substitutes and use the genuine article.

Our town and city people too, have a stake

in this matter. While they may seem to save a little money by buying margarine now, in the long run their standard of living will be affected by the ruin of the dairy industry. In the west particularly, depression on the farm will be followed before long by depression in town. On the whole, butter substitutes are poor business for Canada.

QUILT CONTEST

Mrs. Macdonald, Department of Agriculture, has brought to our attention of Quilt Contest sponsored by the Toronto Star. Quilts must be new, and should be made by hand, between September 1, 1955 and April 30, 1956. If your local has already made a quilt this might be a good way to get some funds. For information write to "Quilt Contest", Star Weekly, 80 King Street West, Toronto, Ontario.

FAST LEARNING!

A mathematics teacher wrote on the blackboard "LXXX", and turning to a girl in the front row, asked: "What does that mean?"

Blushing prettily, the chick replied: "Love and kisses."

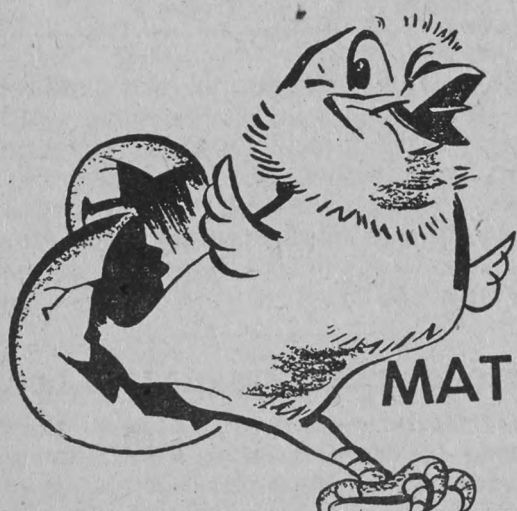
Ohaton Neighbors Set Up Sick Fund

In a spirit recollective of pioneer days, neighbors of a young Ohaton, Alta., couple have rallied to that family's aid in time of sickness.

On January 11 they set up a "Heart Patient to Rochester Fund" to send ailing Mrs. Emmet Fitzgerald to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, N.Y. Mrs. Fitzgerald, a farm wife and mother, has been suffering from a heart condition for some years and was recently informed that her only hope lay in getting to the Mayo Clinic for treatment and, probably, surgery.

However, frequent clinical observation and treatment required by Mrs. Fitzgerald over the past few years have drained the family's resources and the trip to Rochester appeared out.

Appreciating the family's position, neighbors launched the fund raising campaign and, according to report, are making good progress toward the objective of \$1,500. Chairing the project is Harold Dowling, with Mrs. Oscar Schielke acting as secretary. This action was initiated by members of Acme F.U.A. Local, No. 801, of which Mr. Fitzgerald had been a member up to last year.



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4. Fritz Wuth, Rat Lake
5. Charles Seeley, Cherhill
6. S. A. Sanford, Vegreville
7. Mrs. Mildred G. Redman, Hardisty
8. W. R. Hansel, Gadsby
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EDITORIALS

OUR JUNIORS

Every time Juniors are discussed, we all say how very important they are, how they are the leaders of tomorrow and how we must support and encourage them. I haven't seen too much evidence that we have done this, or when we have, that our Juniors have responded in any great number. My experience with Juniors is limited to their board. On this board I find a group of well-educated, intelligent young men and women who are being frustrated because they have nothing really important to get their teeth into.

I am glad that the recent senior board meeting authorized the Juniors to take a good look at their movement and come up with a brand new plan of organization and activities.

When they do, I hope they will give consideration to get into policy-making activities of the farm union movement. Certainly they should be interested. They have a much greater stake in the future of agriculture than the seniors have. Certainly they

are capable. The president of the Saskatchewan Farmers Union is just over Junior age and those of you who heard him at our last convention will agree that he knows what he is doing.

We, seniors, are prepared to give you Juniors a real place in our union. It is up to you to accept the challenge. You can't be important without accepting responsibility.

TO REORGANIZE NEIGHBORING LOCAL

All district farmers were invited to the February meeting of Clare Local, No. 787, but not too good a percentage turned out.

The meeting was held in the school auditorium and was addressed by Mrs. Mildred Redman, FUA director for District No. 7. The speaker gave a concise outline of farm affairs, which was followed by a question period. All in attendance later expressed appreciation for her visit and all felt they had learned much.

During the short business meeting before Mrs. Redman's address, the local's delegate to the annual convention ably presented his impressions of highlights at the convention.

On encouragement from Mrs. Redman, officers were elected to reorganize Paradise Valley Local for the coming year. Plans were to arrange a membership canvass in that district.

At Joint Meeting

LLOYDMINSTER, Sask., — In only two years during the past 60 has the buying power of a bushel of wheat been lower than at present, declared Chris Hansen, president of the Saskatchewan Farmers' Union, in addressing a joint meeting of some 300 Alberta and Saskatchewan farm union members at Lloydminster on January 31.

To illustrate the dire position of prairie farmers, Mr. Hansen quoted figures showing that average net farm income in his province in 1954 was \$1,246., and while latest figures were not yet available, he predicted a drop to less than \$1,000. for 1955. The same table showed that the average laborer's income in Saskatchewan for 1954 was \$2,249. Having regard to the farmer's large investment, and with all due respect to labor, he felt the comparative earnings were nothing short of "shameful."

Commenting on his forthcoming trip to Switzerland as a member of the advisory committee to the Canadian delegation during International Wheat Agreement talks, Mr. Hansen felt that a wheat agreement would be more difficult to obtain than it had been in the past.

The basis for such observation was that many importing countries had increased home production tremendously, some to the extent where they are now in the exporting rather than importing class. This trend has contributed greatly to the world wheat surplus, thereby weakening somewhat the bargaining power of exporting nations.

RENEWAL EXPECTED

Notwithstanding obstacles, he felt there was a good chance of coming up with a renewed agreement and that Great Britain would be one of the signatories. (Great Britain is the largest importer of wheat in the world and did not participate in the agreement term now concluding). In order for an international agreement to operate successfully, he stated, at least 50 per cent. — and more desirably, two-thirds — of the world trade in wheat should fall within the agreement.

NO CONCESSIONS

As farm union representative on the advisory committee, Mr. Hansen said he will be obliged to press the Canadian delegation to seek a price structure similar to that of the expiring agreement — \$1.55 floor and \$2.05 ceiling. "I don't think we can make concessions

on the floor price; that is the only protection we, as producers, have", he declared. Main price factor open then for negotiating would be the ceiling.

Proposals expected from the United States delegation were "entirely unpredictable" at this time, the speaker said. U.S. views on the subject would be patterned largely to conform with political strategy at home.

Mr. Hansen estimated that since about 90 per cent of all current world wheat production is supported through national subsidies of one sort or another, it is inevitable the Canadian producers will have to be subsidized also if they are to continue competing in world wheat markets.

YOUNG WARNS

Henry Young, vice-president of the Farmers' Union of Alberta, spoke to the gathering on "The Future of the Family Farm" and outlined the F.U.A. emergency program as currently being presented at a series of mass meetings throughout the province. Agriculture's ever-mounting rift between production costs and produce prices is spelling doom for the family farm as it has been known and will inevitably lead to monopolistic corporation farming unless corrective steps are taken, warned Mr. Young in his address.

During the question period following addresses from the two speakers, Mr. Hansen was asked what action the farm unions could take to gain their objectives, pre-supposing they held majority membership. Mr. Hansen replied that, in his opinion, the objectives could be gained through negotiation.

The hold-up in box car distribution is being caused mainly by grain having to compete with booming industrial shipping, low rail rates under the Crow's Nest Pass Agreement and railways diverting much of their rolling stock to areas where truck and boat shipping are keenly competing, it was stated in answer to another question.

BANQUET ADDRESS

"If we (farmers) have one fault, it is in not being vocal enough", Mrs. Daisy Lund, S.F.U. women's president, told a banquet gathering in St. Anthony's Church basement following the meeting.

"We've got to use our locals in becoming more vocal", the guest speaker stated. "We need to re-assess our thinking," she continued, "if wider participation at the local level is to be brought about." In that regard, she felt the technique of group discussion held the key.

Mrs. Lund explained that the process of effective discussion must go through four steps:

(Continued on Page 11)

ALBERTA FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

SUBMISSION TO THE PROVINCIAL CABINET

On Friday, February 3rd, the Alberta Federation of Agriculture met with the Alberta Cabinet and presented, and discussed with the Cabinet members, the various resolutions of provincial stature that were endorsed by the Alberta Federation of Agriculture Annual Meeting held in Calgary on January 11th, 12th, and 13th.

Premier Manning and his full Cabinet were in attendance. Mr. Roy C. Marler, president of the A.F.A., introduced the Board of Directors who, with the exception of two were all present. Both Cabinet members and Directors entered freely into the discussion. The following will present, in a brief way, the context of our resolutions, and comments from the Cabinet.

1. Bonus to truckers — Asked that this unfair business practice of bonusing truckers, to gain delivery of livestock direct to plants, be investigated.

The government agreed that this practice does constitute a problem. They agreed that legislation could be passed prohibiting such a practice, but pointed out that enforcement of such legislation would be very difficult, if not impossible.

2. Truck license fee based on tonnage rating rather than wheel base.

The Government is presently taking steps to achieve this request.

3. Marketing Boards — Requesting change in Act, regarding voting requirements.

Mr. Halmrast pointed out the marketing schemes in other provinces had been able to secure a very high percentage vote of the producers. Because of this, it was felt that no change was necessary at this time.

4. Meat Prices — Asking the Provincial Government to investigate the price spread on meat products between producer and consumer.

There was very little discussion on this point, and no comment from Cabinet members.

5. National Health Insurance — This resolution expressed support for a comprehensive health service.

It was pointed out that the Alberta Government is in support of the principle of health insurance, and that the present proposal being considered depends on provincial participation. Mrs. Armstrong, president of the F.W.U.A., commended Dr. Cross for the stand taken at recent Dominion-Provincial discussion.

6. Historical Museum — There was no commitment regarding this. However, the question was raised as to the advisability and, or, desirability of duplicating the work done in Saskatchewan in this regard.

7. Unearned Increment Tax — Asking for its withdrawal.

We were informed that this matter was under study by the Government. It was admitted that they did not like the Act, but that it had been a helpful source of income over the years.

8. Weather Modification — Asking that amendments be made so that municipal districts and counties could levy a tax for the advancement of weather modification practices.

The Government members did not say that

such an amendment was being considered. They did point out that McGill University was doing considerable research work with regard to weather modification studies, and that the Alberta Research Council was also doing some work.

9. Rural Telephones — This asked for a revolving fund to assist telephone construction in rural areas, and that studies be made with regard to the feasibility of carrying telephone lines on power poles.

There is evidently considerable study underway on this last point, but no encouragement was offered regarding funds to assist with new construction. During discussion a number of points of dissatisfaction were voiced. These were new to the Minister who agreed to look into them at once.

10. Hunting — Urging that no hunting be allowed on private property without the permission of the owner.

The Government expressed concern with regard to this question. The Hon. Mr. Taylor pointed out that, at a series of meetings held recently, the resolution as presented was given very strong support.

11. Provincial Farm Loans — Asked for long term loans at low interest rates for farmers.

While no commitments were made, discussion brought out the points that such a setup should be divorced from governments, and that it should be designed, in the main, for the exchange of farms.

12. Control of Margarine — Asked that this control be transferred from the Industries and Labor Department to that of Agriculture.

This matter will be looked into. Up to this time the Department of Agriculture has always been consulted regarding regulations and decisions.

13. Show Ring Standards — Asking encouragement to cattle breeders to adopt progeny testing by special grants to show ring classes for progeny tested beef cattle and that, as soon as practical, all animals exhibited at Class "A" and "B" Fairs be progeny tested.

This request will be considered.

14. Easements for Right of Ways — Asked that the Provincial Government provide some authority, such as an Arbitration Board, where farmers can appeal without expense to themselves for a fair and just settlement in respect to public utilities and provincial highways.

The Government is looking into this question, and will meet with the Canadian Utilities for discussion of special problems referred to.

15. Abolition of Single Transferable Vote — Urging that this system of balloting be retained in all single member constituencies.

No comment, other than that the dual systems of balloting were causing confusion.

16. Co-operative Education — That the practice and philosophy of co-operation receive greater attention in our Alberta Educational institutions.

It was felt that the present system provided plenty of opportunity through enterprise projects. The Minister felt that this subject was well covered, and suggested that a statement could be prepared listing material used.

JOINT MEETING

(Continued from Page 9)

When an idea is submitted to a person, he must first understand it; secondly, accept it. If he takes these steps he will participate and his ideas will flow back to the originating body. The fourth step is then inevitable — satisfaction. Such is one of the nearest things to perpetual motion.

Other speakers bringing banquet greetings included J. L. McLean, president of the Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce; and Clayton Reeves, branch president of the Canadian Mental Health Association.

Mrs. George Finlay, F.W.U.A. director for district No. 7 was in charge of banquet arrangements and acted as master of ceremonies.

(Signifying the unity of purpose underlying the joint gathering was a poster back of the head table. Sketched by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Sturge, the work of art depicted an Alberta farmer and one from Saskatchewan shaking hands across the provincial border. Amateur artists Howard and Rosemary Sturge are officers of Staplehurst and Stapledon F.U.A. and F.W.U.A. locals, respectively).

BRIEF BRINGS FIRST RESULT

Hon. A. R. Patrick, minister of economic affairs, in a recent letter to F.U.A. President A. W. Platt, outlined provisions of a new law draft regarding licensing and operation of boats in this province. These are being formulated in keeping with general recommendations contained in the farm union's annual brief to the provincial cabinet, presented on January 3.

According to the minister, the new regulations are being drafted by fisheries superintendent, H. B. Watkins, "with specific intent to afford a greater measure of safety to the public generally." The regulations, it is stated, will contain provisions respecting the operation of privately owned craft and construction, carrying capacity and operation of boats hired for conveying passengers.

Among other provisions, the changed rulings will set forth prudence methods for boat operators, limit speed under certain conditions and places, establish right-of-way, and on hired boats will oblige owners to provide some life-guard equipment and weight-of-load ratings.

(Many union members will be heartened by the government's speedy response to the recommendations laid before it on this relatively minor matter. The instance provides an indication of results organized effort can bring.

-Editor)

**FARM SHORT COURSE AT LLOYDMINSTER
FEBRUARY 27—29**

Farmers and businessmen of Lloydminster and district are this year again combining their efforts to stage a three-day agricultural short course for men, February 27-28-29, with a separate short course designed for women only on the first two days. The town's chamber of commerce, who last year originated the idea and carried it through, will again be in charge of all arrangements, and will be assisted by key personnel from the University of Saskatchewan Extension Department, the provincial and federal departments of agriculture.

The broad, fast-moving course will provide a wealth of practical information for all farm people, regardless of age, say chamber officials. (Last year a total of over 1,500 persons attended; with this year's outstanding slate of lecturers and discussion periods, they are hoping to double that number).

Sessions for ladies will be held in the Scout-Guide Hall, while the men will be accommodated at the Legion Hall.

A social highlight scheduled in conjunction with the course is a public banquet in St. Anthony's Church Hall, at which Saskatchewan's minister of agriculture, Hon. I. C. Nollet, will be guest speaker. The subject of Mr. Nollet's address is to be "The Economic Realities of Modern Farming".

No restrictions are placed on attendance at the course and no fees will be charged.

F.U.A. Local Formed at Ribstone

A number of farmers from north and south of Ribstone, gathered at the Ribstone Community Hall on February 2, to hear Mrs. Redman give a very interesting account of the farm situation and the part played by the F.U.A.

After her talk, those present were in favour of organizing a local. For the organization meeting, Mr. R. Newstead of the Prosperity Local took the chair and Mrs. D. Gordon of the Prospect Valley Local acted as secretary. The following slate of officers was elected:

President—Mr. Jack Worrall; Vice-President — Mr. Howard White; Secretary-Treasurer—Mr. Jim McCluskey Directors — Mr. Bob McCluskey, Mr. Joe Schmidt and Mr. Nels McCluskey.

It was decided to hold meetings the second Wednesday of each month in the hall, with members taking turns bringing lunch. The first meeting to be February 8th.

A number of Emergency Program Petitions were handed out for members to get signed.

Mrs. Redman was given a hearty vote of thanks. A number of those present then met Mrs. Redman at a tasty lunch served by Mrs. V. Dallyn.

Farm Women's Union of Alberta

F.W.U.A. President's Report

Mrs. C. T. Armstrong

BRIEF TO GOVERNMENT

Your executive and several board members presented a brief to the premier and cabinet members; a full report will be sent out and also printed in this issue of the Organized Farmer.

EXECUTIVE MEETING

F.W.U.A. business was handled and a very full agenda completed. Revision of the cook book is going ahead and the committee are doing a thorough job. Along with all the activity we are meeting with the F.U.A. board members. My broadcast outlines some of the highlights of recent interest and proposed trip to Ottawa to present our briefs.

A.C.W.W. MATTERS

Your A.C.W.W. Convener, Mrs. Sissons and Mrs. Howes, president of the W.I., met with your executive to discuss the forthcoming visit of Mrs. Berry of Australia, A.C.W.W. president. Tentative plans are started and the F.W.U.A. and W.I. will work together so that all rural women will have the opportunity to hear Mrs. Berry. Of course we cannot plan as we would like, due to the very limited time allotted to Alberta, but I would ask that you do make a special effort to attend the meeting closest to you. As soon as we are sure of arrangements and dates we will send word to the locals. Plans were also discussed to send a delegate to the A.C.W.W. Conference in Ceylon. A letter will be sent to all locals with nomination form and a reminder of the importance of making your contribution to the fund for this project

F.W.U.A. Hi-Lights

A small meeting, due to poor roads, was held by Ghost Pine FWUA No. 1024 but plans were made for an Entertainment Evening of musicals, readings, etc. Local conveners were chosen for different topics during the year, and some special speakers were suggested for appropriate months.

★ ★ ★ ★

The members of Grandmeadow FWUA No. 905 are to hold a chicken supper to raise money for the Kinsmen of Ponoka swimming pool project.

Hairy Hill FWUA No. 618 report a successful meeting in spite of heavy roads. The delegate's report of the annual convention was heard. Plans are being made for a 6th FWUA birthday party.

★ ★ ★ ★

St. Alberta FWUA No. 502 heard and enjoyed delegate's reports of the convention at their January meeting.

★ ★ ★ ★

Two members of Pine Hill FWUA No. 1013 have volunteered to obtain as many signatures as possible on the "Petition". Mrs. Braithwaite attended the meeting and spoke on the annual convention. The ladies enjoyed her talk.

★ ★ ★ ★

Fleet FWUA No. 1104 report a very interesting January meeting. Used clothing is to be collected again this year for Unitarian Service Committee. Plans are being made to have the District Home Economist speak on "Decorate with Color and "Texture" at the March meeting.

★ ★ ★ ★

The Viking South FWUA No. 807 have summarized their year's activities and find they have had a very busy and very interesting year.

★ ★ ★ ★

Gleichen FWUA No. 1010 report a very successful Christmas concert and dance. Various generous donations have been made to a number of community projects.

★ ★ ★ ★

At the last meeting of Park Grove (Vegreville) FWUA No. 609 plans were made for a bazaar in the early fall. The delegate gave her report on the annual convention. \$5.00 will again be given to the junior with most entries at the Vegreville fair in August.

★ ★ ★ ★

Sydenham-Gerald FWUA No. 710 plan to compile a scrapbook on Canadian Indians. Articles for Convention Sales Table are to be planned earlier this year.

★ ★ ★ ★

Due to bad roads Pelican FWUA No. 707 (Edgerton) held their December and January meeting together. Delegate's report was given. More quilt material and a remnant for bazaar workbook have been obtained.

★ ★ ★ ★

Jubilee FWUA No. 1310 (Hussar), after reading Executive letter and Petition, have decided to hold a joint meeting with the FUA. A fashion show is planned for May. District Home Economist is to be invited to February meeting.

Clover Bar FWUA No. 602 was given an interesting report on high-lights of 1955 in Alberta. A panel discussion on current topics of interest to farm people was held followed by lively discussion.

* * * *

At Durness FWUA No. 712 (Lloydminster) meeting they decided to start a birthday box for pennies for friendship, each member to give pennies to correspond to the years of her age.

* * * *

Stony Plain FWUA No. 501 plan to start at once on collecting material for their scrap-book on Alberta and Alberta Indians.

One hundred and twenty-three dollars was collected by the members of Fairdonian Valley FWUA No. 802 (Sedgewick) for catering to Farmers' Bonspiel. A very interesting January meeting is reported.

* * * *

Red Deer Lake FWUA No. 1216 heard a very interesting talk, by their District Home Economist, on "Cooking with Herbs", illustrated by pamphlets and descriptions.

* * * *

A splendid report of the annual convention was given to Burnt Lake FWUA No. 1004 by their delegate.

* * * *

One Tree FWUA No. 1307, at their last meeting, heard the delegate's report of the convention and enjoyed it very much. They are well pleased that they received second prize for their scrap-book.

* * * *

The members of Swalwell FWUA No. 1017 held a lively discussion on the Farm Emergency Policy and Action Program and decided that their executive and any interested members should attend the next FUA meeting and see that the "Petition" is dealt with and to have it posted in several public places for signatures.

* * * *

Betchton FWUA No. 1027 report the money for their three delegates to the convention was raised by presenting two plays by local talent, and by holding a pie sale.

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Barrhead FWUA No. 302 report a very poor attendance at their January meeting due to impassable roads.

* * * *

By this time the "Bake Sale" and "Card Party" have been held by Poplar Ridge FWUA No. 1020 and also the "Valentine Party". This local has decided to ask for a rest room in Red Deer.

* * * *

At the January meeting of the Gwynne FWUA No. 918 the delegate gave her report of the convention and expressed her enjoyment of the very interesting program.

Stapledene FWUA No. 713 (Lloydminster) report a very interesting January meeting, hearing reports on local mass meeting, Mental Health meeting, Dominion Legislation and the Petition.

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Mrs. Margaret House, District Director for No. 12, was the guest speaker at the last meeting of Utopia FWUA No. 1210 and gave an address on the history of the Farm Women's Organization, also read her bulletin on Social Welfare.

* * * *

The Hussar FWUA No. 1304 and Jubilee FWUA No. 1310 decided to meet in Hussar to sign the petition for emergency program. A discussion on many items of interest pertaining to the convention took place at the last meeting of Hussar.

* * * *

Northern Lights FWUA No. 205 ask all members to bring lots of fund raising ideas to the next meeting. A collection of "Pennies for Friendship" has been started.

* * * *

Horn Hill FWUA No. 1011 commend the Poplar Ridge Local for their desire to have a rest room established in Red Deer, and recommend that all organizations in and around Red Deer be contacted with a view to finding out what can be done in this matter.

* * * *

Plans have been made by Black Diamond FWUA No. 1214 for a Pot Luck supper. Each member is asked to bring a monthly contribution to the scrap book on Alberta Indians. Help is being given the Home and School to send a student to Red Deer for a P. T. instructor's course this summer.

* * * *

Willow Springs FWUA No. 612 plan to serve dinner at noon, and afternoon tea to those taking part in the Leadership Course in Bon Accord Community Centre on March 2nd. A St. Patrick's Tea is planned for March.

* * * *

Edmonton FWUA No. 603 hope to have Miss Joan Morgan to give demonstration, at the meeting, in March, on "The How's of a Healthy Household".

* * * *

Members of Delia FWUA No. 1103 plan to sell the lunch at a farm sale to be held in the spring. Various farm and school problems were discussed at the January meeting.

* * * *

Beaverlodge FWUA No. 107 are concerned with lack of interest in both handicraft display and meetings and are trying to remedy the latter by having guest speakers attend their future meetings.

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Heath FWUA No. 703 nominate Mrs. Winifred Ross, of Millet as their choice of a delegate to the A.C.W.W. conference in Australia.

Monthly Letter from

Alberta Livestock Co-operative Limited

Dear Friends:

Last month we wrote concerning the constant 'surplus' position in livestock production in which we find ourselves. When surplus production is mentioned these days there seems to be a natural tendency to assume that they're bad and that we're in trouble. We're going to try to show you

this month that this is not always so and we're going to use Alberta hog production as a case in point.

The following table shows Canadian hog production by provinces, the percentage for each province of Canadian production, exports converted into hogs even though exported as pork, and the 1954 comparison.

| Produced in | 1955 | % of Canada | 1954 | % of Canada | % change 1955 to 1954 |
|------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------------|--------------------------|
| ONTARIO | 1,997,000 | 33.7 | 1,787,000 | 35.2 | + 12 |
| ALBERTA | 1,686,000 | 28.5 | 1,462,000 | 28.8 | + 15 |
| QUEBEC | 1,057,000 | 17.9 | 898,000 | 17.7 | + 18 |
| SASKATCHEWAN | 562,000 | 9.5 | 421,000 | 8.3 | + 33 |
| MANITOBA | 436,000 | 7.4 | 335,000 | 6.6 | + 30 |
| MARITIMES | 138,000 | 2.3 | 144,000 | 2.8 | - 4 |
| BRITISH COLUMBIA | 41,000 | .7 | 32,000 | .6 | + 29 |
| TOTAL | 5,917,000 | 100.0 | 5,079,000 | 100.0 | + 16 |
| EXPORTS | 570,000 | 9.6 | 565,000 | 11.1 | + 1 |
| LEFT IN CANADA | 5,347,000 | 90.4 | 4,514,000 | 88.9 | + 18 |

Take your export surplus out of the picture and there is still a good Canadian requirement for Alberta hogs, in fact when you consider that B.C. raised only 41,000 last year but that were more than 350,000 head slaughtered in B.C. plants it is readily seen that at least that difference is essential to B.C. and so far as Alberta is concerned it is then not a surplus but is required. In actual fact a large portion of the hog production of the prairie provinces is vital to the Canadian consumer, a sharp decrease in that production could put Canada in a position of being a meat importer instead of an exporter.

The question then is, how are we going to obtain value out of this required product? Are we going to do a selling job or are we going to leave it to the processor, who, while needing this raw material to operate his plants, cannot be expected to look at it in any other way than as raw material for processing. To the processor the producer's position cannot be either than secondary.

The hog producer needs to take a much closer look at the marketing picture. He cannot afford to consign his hogs through packers' agents either at country points or through commercial truckers, who now, in many instances are nothing but packers' agents.

The hog producer can obtain representation

in his selling through consignment through his local co-operative shipping associations or, when consigning to major market centres through shipment to his public markets, insisting that his hogs are to be sold under maximum competition.

Every hog that is sold away from negotiated prices or from competitive channels, which are available through A.L.C. affiliated co-operatives and through A.L.C. agencies operating on public markets, reduces overall competition to such an extent that active competitive buying is reduced to a degree so that your own sales agencies cannot take full advantage of a production situation that should in fact favor the Alberta hog producer. Actually this decentralization of selling by the farmer needs to be corrected by the farmer. At best we can point out to him only how he is weakening his own position.

Sincerely yours,

Geo. Winkelaar,
General Manager,

ALBERTA LIVESTOCK CO-OPERATIVE LTD.

(Advt.)

F.W.U.A. Presentation to the Provincial Cabinet

FEBRUARY 3, 1956

Members of the cabinet present were Premier Manning, Hon. A. J. Hooke, minister of municipal affairs; Hon. R. Reireson, minister of industry and labor; Hon. L. C. Halmrast, minister of agriculture; Hon. Fred Colborne, minister without portfolio; Hon. A. O. Aalborg, minister of education; Hon. E. W. Hinman, provincial treasurer; Hon. J. Hartley, minister of public works; Hon. R. D. Jorgenson, minister of public welfare; Hon. G. Taylor, minister of highways and Hon. Dr. W. W. Cross, minister of health.

Members of the F.W.U.A. delegation included Mrs. C. T. Armstrong, Mrs. Olive Douglass, Mrs. D. H. Mathison, Mrs. J. Harrold, Mrs. G. Beach, Mrs. C. Keast and Mrs. F. Hicks.

Mrs. Armstrong read the resolutions and requests. Replies were as follows:

1. F.W.U.A. request that all main areas be serviced by fully staffed Health Units including mental health services and expressed appreciation of our Government for supporting a Federal Health Plan.

2. Mothers' Allowances — Help for all cases where the husband is (a) sent to jail, (b) confined to mental hospital, (c) incapacitated by disease or accident or (d) deserts his wife and children.

REPLY: Assistance is given when a person is sent to mental hospital, after three years desertion a wife may get assistance and when the husband is incapacitated by disease or accident there are Disability or Workmen's Compensation Funds.

3. EDUCATION — Government to finance 50 percent of elementary and secondary education including the cost of buildings.

REPLY: Last year grants, etc., did average out to 50 percent. The grants for buildings vary usually about one-third of the cost but in some instances 50 percent and over have been granted.

4. That it be compulsory for all dairies to use waxed caps on milk and cream bottles.

REPLY: These are so useful and handy that rather expect dairies will soon use them of their own accord.

5. That teachers be governed by the School Act.

REPLY: Much discussion on this and agreed that teachers do have the right to bargain under the Labor Act.

6. Arbitration Board Rulings be made binding on all parties.

REPLY: Much discussion again and it was pointed out that it would be almost impossible to make these rulings binding on all parties. Some would accept but the teachers would not.

7. Butter be used in cooking classes.

REPLY: Mr. Aalborg stated he was not aware of schools using margarine instead of butter. Could

be used to show the difference and that the department does not have jurisdiction over purchases by school boards but could recommend that butter be used.

8. Prevention of broken homes by suggested procedure as outlined by the convention.

No comment.

9. A questionnaire be sent out to all Grade XII students to ascertain how many wishing to continue studies have the funds available and also that a Scholarship Board be set up.

REPLY: A concise circular will be sent out to each Grade XII student this year and also about the first of April a co-ordinator of teacher training will be sent out to visit school principals to give out this information and to recruit teachers.

10. Traffic at accidents discussed and the F.W.U.A. asking that police and others in authority be given more freedom in keeping spectators away.

REPLY: They have the authority but very difficult to enforce under these circumstances.

11. Investigation be made into price of drugs and medicine and that prices be controlled.

REPLY: Actually this would come under the Pure Foods Act and would be Federal. Government doesn't have control over retail prices. Health Units get drugs wholesale so prices there should not be compared to the local drug stores.

12. The Departments of Education and Agriculture should co-operate in the teaching of agricultural subjects in the high schools.

REPLY: Will do this.

13. A definite policy of public library development be formulated and that adequate grants be provided for the establishment and administration in addition to the annual grant.

REPLY: Under review and will probably be done soon.

14. Direct grants for school libraries be made and a library supervisor be appointed.

REPLY: Will consider.

15. Additional grants to assist Association Libraries to provide better services to rural areas.

REPLY: Being done.

16. Commend the Government for the setting up of Family Courts and ask that the personnel be increased.

REPLY: Mr. Manning stated that he realized this was essential.

17. Radio stations be forbidden to broadcast reports of accidents until all information could be given at once to insure plenty of time to notify relatives.

REPLY: Outside the jurisdiction of the Province.

18. The Department of Education mail returns

to Grade XII students not later than the last of July.

REPLY: Every effort will be made.

19. The Department of Education limit the number of miles children must travel on school buses.

REPLY: This left to the jurisdiction of the district concerned.

20. The Provincial and Federal Government provide more hospitals and/or rest rooms for the chronically ill.

REPLY: To get the Federal Grant must be built according to specifications — grants given according to floor space and equipment.

21. Divisional School Board Financial Reports be sent out to the ratepayers in all districts.

REPLY: Good suggestion and no reason why it should not be done.

22. Consideration be given to building a University campus on site west of Calgary.

REPLY: Construction program since the war had been extremely heavy but consideration will be given to this proposal.

23. More character training be given in the schools and outlined ways.

REPLY: That a half hour per day is allowed for religious training if the teacher desires to use this time and further than that it was generally felt that religious training should be left to the home and the church.

24. More books be provided for the Bowden Library.

REPLY: No interest in books at Bowden at all and that the problem could only be solved by creating an interest in young persons for good books.

25. Disabled Persons' Pension be lowered from 18 to 16 years to cover mentally retarded young persons after family allowance stops, to help with their education.

No comment.

26. Adequate space be provided for playgrounds in newly erected centralized schools.

REPLY: This is being considered in all new subdivisions now.

27. The government to provide a hospital for the free care and treatment of cancer patients.

REPLY: Not feasible under present circumstances.

28. The entire program for mental patients be provided by the government.

REPLY: People are taken in now whether they can pay or not and municipalities do not have to pay for these patients. Red Deer is an exception, charges 50 cents per day and will ask the municipalities if individuals do not pay.

29. The government continue to keep margarine from being colored to imitate butter.

No comment.

30. The government to establish archives for the

collection and preservation of records, pictures etc. of historical value.

REPLY: Making a collection now but no further plans.

31. Establishment of School District Committees to inform students of scholarships and bursaries and also to make recommendations to donors of scholarships and bursaries the students most deserving.

REPLY: Asked that this be referred to Alberta School Trustees Association.

32. The Highway Traffic Board strictly enforce the law stating that traffic must not pass school buses stopped to let children off.

REPLY: This comes under the Inspection Branch and should be reported to the R.C.M.P. Anyone knowing of any cases should forward name, time, place and license number to head office and it will be sent to the premier.

33. Meat be labelled so that the consumer will know the grade being purchased.

REPLY: Will check to see just how far the government could go into this regard.

NOTE: The amendment to the Intestate Succession Act was not taken to the government after getting legal advice.

EMERGENCY MEETINGS

According to speakers' reports coming into central office, a total of 67 emergency meetings have been held throughout the province, up to February 10. Average attendance has been slightly above 71 persons, with an overall attendance of nearly 5,000.

Many of the people who went to these meetings did so under great difficulty, the reports show. The weather was almost always bitterly cold, roads were narrow and heavy with snow, and those coming from some distance were never sure of getting back without incident.

Most of the meetings listed shortage of box cars and cash as the greatest problems in their districts. The farm union's emergency policy as presented received almost wholehearted endorsement from all farmers and business people.

(Although numerous reports of such meetings were sent in directly for publication in the Organizer Farmer, space limitations make this impossible.—Editor).

SMART FIGURING?

It's been said that a women's club is a place where they "knock" after they enter. In the same vein, it could be said that a gold digger is a poor gal who doesn't know where her next "male" is coming from. And still further, a diplomat is one who can serve God without offending the devil.

The Organized Farmer

F.U.A. JUNIORS AT WORK

By WALTER SCHEIDT, Jr. President

Safety Project

Of the many hundreds of farms in Alberta, there are very few that do not contain some farm hazards.

Many accidents occur right on the farmstead. Perhaps then, a project on farmstead planning should be tackled first. This the junior board has suggested to locals in past years.

Accidents on the farm usually arise from two sources: fatigue and carelessness. I know that with a knowledge of accidents and farm hazards the rate could be cut down.

(The department of agriculture and other agricultural departments have valuable information on farm accidents.)

Now, you may ask, "What about these farm accidents? What can we do about them?" Lots can be done, and we, the Junior F.U.A., are the ones to do it! How? By making farm safety our project.

Here are some suggestions you can use:

Ask men in to talk on the project; e.g. district agriculturist or field supervisor.

Obtain films on project.

Outline your program for the year around it.

Use a store window for a display on the project.

Pass out information and pamphlets on farm safety.

I believe that farm young people have an important place in our union, but we must try to have something for them. A project like this is worth a try.

Senior Aid Sought

After a year in office, I have seen locals trying out different programs and projects. I feel confident that it will be possible to launch a worthwhile and interesting program for those in the age group who up 'til now have not found the type of activity to suit them. It will be discussed at the junior conference in June during Farm Young People's Week and I hope that from these deliberations we will be able to set up an even better program than we have now.

A word to the wise. Seniors, try and find someone in your local within the junior-age group and send him to Farm Young People's Week so that we can really do things. Perhaps that young person can then go home and form

a new local. Seniors, this would be money well spent, for without your direction and ideas we can't tell if our program is the right one.

My Own Activities

You might ask what I, as junior president, have done on this year's project. Not too much yet, as I haven't had an opportunity to give any radio broadcasts on our work, nor have any locals invited me to outline the junior program. I do hope that as the winter progresses the opportunity shall arise.

In district No. 10 I have contacted the U.G.G. fieldman, Gordon Moss, and he kindly consented to let me give a brief talk on junior work after his film showings. He is going to show one film on farm safety at each meeting, so in this way it gives me a chance to talk on our project. So far I have attended four meetings with him in the Olds-Didsbury area and more are planned.

Conrich Active

Strong junior locals can be, and have been, formed, and an example is Conrich. Here is what they did last year, and I quote from their report:

"February found the girls in the community busy selling name places for blocks in a quilt. You had to pay five cents to get your name embroidered on a square. Girls did the embroidering, pieced the squares together and then did the quilting. At a tea held in February the quilt was raffled.

"Our big project for the year was making and putting up signs for all the farms in the community. We bought the lumber, cut the signs according to length of the name, then painted them white with red lettering. Posts were bought, painted and put up and the signs put on them. Now it is an easy matter to find a person's farm by the name at the gate.

"Our annual dance for the junior F.U.A. Stampede Queen Candidate was held in June, Western style. The hall was decorated with brands on the walls and at the front were bales. Mary Ellen Jones, of course, was the guest of honor for 1955.

Sponsored Celebration

"A jubilee celebration was held in August

It began in the afternoon with games and other entertainment. In the evening a program was presented and a display of 1905 relics was set up. Since scrolls given by the province were not available at that time, we had some made to commemorate our own celebration and these were distributed as part of the program. The evening came to a close with a dance.

"Each year a boy or girl is sent to Farm Young People's Week with all expenses paid by the juniors. The F.W.U.A. always sends one boy or girl also.

"Last spring the juniors sponsored an amateur program. Entries came from our own district and many of the surrounding communities. Classes of contestants included singing, piano, violin, wind instruments, elocution and others.

Presenting Drama

"This fall 10 junior F.U.A. members began meeting twice a week to practice a play. This is not the first play put on. We have now put on the play in our own community and one other. This, I believe, is one of the best activities a junior local can do. It gives members a chance to improve speech and ease in front of a crowd, as well as being a lot of fun."

Members of Conrich Junior Local deserve a great deal of praise for their activities during the year. Their success was probably due in good part to the tremendous amount of work done by their senior leader, Don Barker. Their record stands as an example of what would be done in other communities when leadership and direction are provided for farm young people.

ARDIS MATHISON ONE OF TOP STUDENTS

Recently announced results of Christmas examinations at the Vermilion School of Agriculture list Miss Ardis Mathison as one of the three honors students currently studying vocational agriculture at the school. Her mother, Mrs. D. Mathison of Dewberry, holds the office of second vice-president in the Farm Women's Union of Alberta.

Miss Mathison is furthering her education with the aid of two scholarships won at F.U.A. Farm Young People's Week during the past two years. In 1954, she won the \$50 scholarship donated by United Grain Growers and last year she was awarded the Alberta Wheat Pool scholarship of \$75.

Eighteen-year-old Ardis plans to enter the University of Alberta next term to major in home economics.

Rough Outline of Farming Up Through the Ages

At the dawn of history, called the stone age,
Farming wasn't anything really big,
Anybody could in it freely engage
By scratching the earth with a stick.

The Egyptians later discovered,
That by watering their land from the Nile,
The soils fertility could be recovered,
This is the earliest irrigation record on file.

Among the world's seven wonders,
Were the Babylonians farms built "like a stair".
Our historians this question still ponder,
Why were those farmers up in the air?

Then we have the farmers of Greece,
Who had to stay home tending the sheep,
While warriors, not interested in the production
of fleece,
Defended "Helen's" honour across the ocean deep.

In ancient Rome the farmers, we find,
Were taxed to death by the patricians,
Until there was discovered by an active mind,
The word "Veto", used today by the Russians.

The farmer throughout the dark middle ages,
Was simply classed as a serf.
He had no rights or privileges.
He didn't even own one square foot of turf.

Although some of our "wise men" think
That farmers are "better off than ever",
Many farmers' sons claim that farming "stinks".
They are too often heard to say: "me a farmer,
never".

It seems that all through the history of farming,
There always were a few ups and far too many
downs.

With the income down and the cost alarming,
Let "George" do the farming, and we will all live
in towns.

I. N.

A POME!

In this modern scheme of things
With today's high prices,
We work ourselves to death to buy
Those labor-saving devices.

MEMBERSHIP RECORD — JANUARY 1956

| | Jan. Men | To Date Men | Jan. Women | To Date Women | Jan. Assoc. | To Date Assoc. | Jan. Jrs. | To Date Jrs. | To Date Total |
|-------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|
| District 1 | 172 | 1237 | 49 | 310 | — | — | 20 | 188 | 1735 |
| District 2 | 316 | 1260 | 103 | 382 | — | 1 | 82 | 281 | 1924 |
| District 3 | 217 | 1399 | 48 | 403 | — | 1 | 36 | 240 | 2043 |
| District 4 | 279 | 1749 | 74 | 538 | — | 1 | 52 | 439 | 2727 |
| District 5 | 500 | 1225 | 183 | 439 | 2 | 2 | 125 | 308 | 1974 |
| District 6 | 330 | 2395 | 143 | 999 | 3 | 5 | 82 | 570 | 3969 |
| District 7 | 371 | 2161 | 128 | 708 | 2 | 2 | 67 | 415 | 3286 |
| District 8 | 199 | 1825 | 66 | 506 | — | — | 26 | 271 | 2602 |
| District 9 | 270 | 1950 | 133 | 582 | — | 3 | 51 | 285 | 2820 |
| District 10 | 763 | 1923 | 194 | 485 | — | 10 | 83 | 190 | 2608 |
| District 11 | 118 | 794 | 35 | 304 | 3 | 5 | 20 | 123 | 1226 |
| District 12 | 246 | 1904 | 81 | 746 | 1 | 8 | 21 | 299 | 2957 |
| District 13 | 157 | 540 | 53 | 224 | — | 3 | 20 | 81 | 848 |
| District 14 | 278 | 1259 | 44 | 363 | — | 1 | 9 | 182 | 1805 |
| TOTAL | 4216 | 21621 | 1334 | 6989 | 11 | 42 | 694 | 3872 | 32524 |

Open Forum

Letters for publication in the Open Forum must be brief. Pen names may be used if desired, but the name of the sender must accompany the letter. The Editor reserves the right to condense any letter to conform to space limitations. The F.U.A. does not endorse or accept any responsibility for opinions expressed under this heading.

The Editor
Organized Farmer

Dear Sir:

I would like to respectfully submit the following for the consideration of all those interested in the present financial problems of the farmers of Western Canada. This is not an original idea of my own, but one that I consider merits a lot of serious consideration. Any plan, to be fully effective, must benefit all producers both large and small to as equal a degree as possible, but not necessarily with regard to the size of each individual enterprise.

"The Canadian Wheat Board should incorporate the unit quota as a basic system for delivery of all grains. A price of 100% of parity to be paid to each permit holder on a specified number of units, regardless of the number of acres under cultivation. The remaining grain to be sold either at the prevailing world price or at a price not below the cost of production. The parity price to be paid by direct government subsidy so that everyone pays a share rather than just the consumers of the grains, etc."

I believe that at current cost prices this plan should be graduated to pay at least \$1,500.00 to a single man with no dependents and graduated up-

wards with regard to marital status and number of dependents.

Such a basic plan should have the following effects:

1. Give every farmer a reasonably secure expectant income under normal weather and growing conditions thereby putting agriculture on a relatively stable financial basis without causing — "over-production? ? ?"

2. With reasonable returns for other agricultural products a government acreage reduction program would be unnecessary, hence no bonuses etc.

3. This should control "land mining" and promote "better farming practice."

4. No cash advances on farm stored grains would be necessary, thereby doing away with tons of paper work and the need for inspection of farm stored grain and farm storage facilities etc.

5. The man who would be a "hog" would have to go into politics or some other such racket. The only "hog" there is room for in agriculture is the bacon hog!

I submit that this basic plan is merely palliative, but as I believe that the real source of our financial trouble lies in Wall Street and St. James Street it looks as though we will have to be content with palliatives for some time to come unless the Russians force us into a saner method of financing. That would be the joke of the century, if not the tragedy!

Yours truly

A. W. Machin,
Box 159, Mannville Alta.

The Editor
Organized Farmer

Dear Sir:

I wonder if you have read the book written by Bruce Hutchinson "The Incredible Canadian"? I am at present reading this book obtained from the local library. Now I have a complaint to make in regard to this book's reference to our late leader, Henry Wise Wood.

In giving an account of the origin of the Farmers' political movement and of the unrest of the times, Hutchinson speaks of Crerar attending a local farmers meeting in a Calgary beer hall and there meeting Henry Wise Wood. Hutchinson further states, "While the farmer delegates at the Calgary convention discussed the evils of the time (between frequent draughts of beer) Crerar and Wood fell into talk."

Now, if it is possible, I would like to know if there is any truth in Hutchinson's statements. This in my opinion, is a direct slander on our farmers and their conventions. On page 60 of the book you will find the evidence.

With best wishes to our new President and Executive for the coming year.

Yours truly

Hardy Wear,
RR 3, Vermilion

Editor -----
Organized Farmer "Open Forum"

Dear Sir:

As late as January 15th, 1956, we had approximately 1,550,000 boxes of apples on hand. In the Okanagan we have cold-storage space capable of holding over four million boxes (bushels) of fruit.

The fruit growers had as of Feb. 1st, 1956, approximately the following stock in storage:

McIntosh, 300,000; Old Delicious, 150,000; Red Delicious, 230,000; Romes, 125,000; Staymans, 45,000; Newtons, 170,000; Winesap, 470,000. and of course a few thousand of other varieties.

It may be sometime yet before we will be able to convince the growers at large to sell to co-ops and other groups. So far they will only sell to wholesalers, exclusively, even when the wholesaler brings in foreign fruit and leaves ours sit to rot. Our executives are afraid to compete against our competitors in a business-like manner. The growers are getting more restive and we hope that consumers, co-ops and farm locals, etc., will help us to persuade the few controlling our industry to sell democratically, that is — central direct selling — first come first served — regardless of threats from profiteers and parasites.

Alff T. Biech
Oliver, B.C.

The Editor,
Organized Farmer

As a member of the election committee at the annual convention, one thing was impressed on my mind. No less than 78 delegates did not even take the time to cast their ballots for the president of their organization. It was even worse in the elections for vice-president and executive members. For vice-president 124 did not cast ballots, and for the executive members 143 did not vote. There is no excuse for this, as the time for each election is clearly marked on the program.

When a local raises the money to send a delegate to the convention it expects the delegate to attend to the affairs of the local. One of its main jobs is electing the officials of the organization. Why didn't those delegates cast their ballots? Where were they at election time? I hope this will not happen again next year.

Mrs. Sam Alberts
Brooks, Alberta

The Editor,
Open Forum,
Organized Farmer.

Enforced leisure resulting from snow-blocked roads prompts me to comment on some of the advertising matter inserted by two of our "Big Brothers".

Mr. Marler has stepped on a soft spot and is now concerned about cleaning his shoes and restoring them to their former lustre. Before this we have wondered at some of Mr. Marler's footwork.

Mr. Marler is not a philosopher and his job is not to philosophize. If he tries it he will make a mess of himself and his job. He is, or should be, a propagandist and his job to propagandize the farmer's viewpoint. A propagandist looks at the other fellow's viewpoint only long enough to devise means to circumvent it or to use it to promote his own. Certainly he does not "pull" his punches because some other group is punching too hard and the situation is being "over-worked". "Farmers of Alberta are in a better over-all position than they have ever been in any period before", says Mr. Marler. Well, why should they not be after 50 odd years of hard labour? But is it true. The position of agriculture relative to other groups in the economy has never been more inferior. Look at the share of the national income which comes to agriculture, or the purchasing power of a bushel of wheat. No, farm leaders do not need to "pull"

(Continued on Page 22)

DO YOU KNOW ???

- THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE "DISKER"
- THAT THIS NAME BELONGS TO C.C.I.L.
- THAT THE "DISKER" HAS ALWAYS BEEN BUILT
IN THE FARMERS' OWN FACTORY AT
WINNIPEG
- THAT C.C.I.L. IS INTRODUCING A
REVOLUTIONARY

NEW MODEL "D"

THIS YEAR

"EVERYTHING NEW BUT THE NAME"

Watch for details in later issues.

C.C.I.L.

The Farmers' Own Machinery Co-op

CALGARY

EDMONTON

DEPOTS AT

Berwyn
Grande Prairie
Dawson Creek
Westlock

St. Paul
Wainwright
Sedgewick
Wetaskiwin

Stettler
Innisfail
Hanna
Lethbridge

(Continued from Page 20)

their punches for fear of hitting too hard. It is the Government's job to draw the line and determine where the national interest lies. Where that line has been drawn has not favored the farmers unduly.

Amalgamation of the A.F.A. and F.U.A. at present is not possible even though desirable. On page 7 Vice-President Young yearns nostalgically for the Co-ops. On the other hand the one great service the F.U.A. can render the Co-ops is to enable them to make solid contact with the rank and file of their membership. Since the two groups need each other, at least let us have some singing in close harmony. That requires practice sessions in private to determine what is to be sung and how it is to be sung before coming out in public.

In the November issue was a full page advertisement by the A.L.C. Such an ad costs money and so we presume the expenditure was prompted by a definite purpose. During the agitation for marketing legislation the A.L.C. gave little or no leadership. If their spokesmen could be cornered then they appeared to be against such legislation. Marketing boards were all right for other provinces which lacked a marketing co-op such as the A.L.C. In Alberta the A.L.C. could always find alternative markets when such existed and do it more cheaply and without the friction engendered by compulsory legislation. Do the problems of marketing surplus quantities of hogs and cattle prove to be too much for the A.L.C. Do they now suffer a twinge of conscience and so we have the full page ad?

Certainly present marketing conditions should be treated as a "case history" and the situation closely studied as to how a marketing board might be expected to benefit the farmer. A committee should be set up to do this particular thing. Who will give a lead? The A.L.C., who else? They are in a privileged position to study marketing conditions.

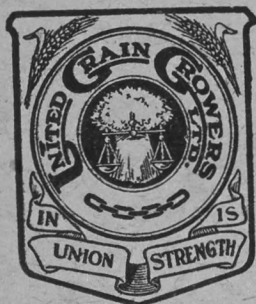
Leslie Pritchard,
R. R. 1,
Wetaskiwin, Alta.

A woman wrote to a daily paper from a very lonely spot as follows:

"My sister and I aren't exactly lonely out here. We have each other to talk to. But we need another woman to talk about."

BUILDING FUND

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Previously acknowledged | \$39,926.38 |
| Sub-District. 2, Dist. 12 | 13.00 |
| District No. 9 | 200.00 |
| Rosyth FWUA No. 709 | 20.00 |
| Mike Oleksiw, Mackay | 4.00 |
| Mirror F.U.A. No. 976, (bricks) | 20.00 |
| Sub-District 2, Dist. 6 | 14.93 |
| Imperial F.U.A. No. 626 | 25.00 |
| Moose Mountain F.U.A. No. 1056 | 10.00 |
| Mayerthorpe F.U.A. No. 523 | 50.00 |
| Westlock FWUA No. 308 | 50.00 |
| Jefferson FWUA No. 1401 | 10.00 |
| Myroslaw F.U.A. No. 605A | 8.00 |
| Green Grove F.U.A. No. 816 | 4.00 |
| Beach Corner F.U.A. No. 505 | 10.00 |
| Hayseed Jr. FUA No. 701 | 61.50 |
| Spring Valley FUA No. 964 | 39.00 |
| Bowden FUA No. 1033 | 6.84 |
| Magnolia FUA No. 522 | 20.00 |
| Federal FUA No. 1118 | 10.00 |
| Myroslaw FWUA No. 623 | 15.00 |
| Hamburg FUA No. 621 | 21.00 |
| Haultain FUA No. 957 (bricks) | 8.80 |
| Garden Park FUA No. 426 | 33.00 |
| F. Bellingham, Bawlf | 5.00 |
| T. McMillan, R R 2, Picardville | 4.00 |
| Pine Hill FUA No. 1049 (bricks) | 15.00 |
| Hoadley FUA No. 968 | 11.00 |
| Rollyview FUA No. 989 | 20.00 |
| I. V. Macklin, Grande Prairie | 10.00 |
| Spruce Valley FUA No. 330 (bricks) | 13.60 |
| Flat Lake FUA No. 425 | 50.00 |
| Westlock FUA. No. 335 (bricks) | 20.00 |
| Mallaig FUA No. 497 | 10.00 |
| M. E. Christensen, Holden | 1.00 |
| T. Cherniwchan, Willingdon | 3.00 |
| Roy Kinley (in memory of of Chris Jensen, Lacombe | 3.00 |
| Eastburg FUA No. 315 | 18.00 |
| Alder FUA No. 986 | 12.00 |
| Sunland FUA No. 666 | 20.00 |
| Balzac FUA No. 1002 (bricks) | 5.00 |
| U. F. A. Co-op | 840.00 |
| Geo. Arnovich, Alder Flats | 1.00 |
| Emrick Herczec, Alder Flats | 1.00 |
| Readymade FWUA No. 1403 | 10.00 |
| Red Deer FUA No. 1026 | 10.00 |
| Blackfoot FUA No. 706 | 10.00 |
| Alberta Surface Rights Association | 50.00 |
| Carvel FUA No. 546 | 50.00 |
| Islay FUA No. 733 | 50.00 |
| Red Deer Lake FWUA No. 1216 (bricks) | 12.00 |
| P. Burfield & J. Howard, Drumheller | 6.50 |
| Kiew West FUA No. 603A | 5.00 |
| Andrew FWUA No. 630 | 10.00 |
| A. G. Aitcheson, Sedgewick | 6.00 |
| Holmsdale FUA No. 1125 | 10.00 |
| Arrowwood FWUA No. 1201 | 15.00 |
| TOTAL | \$41,887.55 |



A Pledge Renewed!

STATEMENT OF U.G.G. POLICY IN RESPECT TO HANDLING GRAIN

1. SERVICE TO CUSTOMERS

This Company was first formed to give service to customers. It is built upon that tradition. We pride ourselves upon our motto: "The Friendly Elevator". Friendliness, service to customers, honesty in weights and grades are qualities which make up the proud tradition of the Company. Any employee can best serve the Company by building his public relationship with customers upon that tradition.

2. WEIGHTS

The Company desires only honest and accurate weight. It believes that if weighing is carefully done, the shrinkage allowance permitted by the Board of Grain Commissioners is sufficient to protect agents against loss in handling. The Company wishes each agent to weigh carefully and accurately.

3. GRADING

The Company also wishes accurate and careful grading. Overgrading can result in heavy losses to the Company. Deliberate undergrading is unfair to a customer. "Weigh Right, Grade Right" is the Company's policy.

PRESIDENT.

United Grain Growers Ltd.

Facing Problems

Farmers of 1923 faced problems in the marketing of their grain that demanded decisive action. The leaders of that day faced the challenge and conceived the idea of Wheat Pools. Through their organizations (U.F.A. in Alberta) they rallied the farmers and launched the new marketing co-operatives in a fervor of enthusiasm and determination.

Through three decades these have flourished and grown by the support of their members. Many marketing injustices have been corrected and millions of dollars saved for western farmers, even while keeping handling charges at abnormally low levels. All has been accomplished by the determination and united effort of men who appreciate the importance of safeguarding their interests beyond the grain field.

Today agricultural problems are again serious but have shifted beyond the direct field of handling grain into national and international trade difficulties. The solutions still lie in concerted and unified action amongst farm people and organizations. Like its predecessor, the Farmers' Union is facing up to the situation and the Alberta Wheat Pool is assuming its share of the responsibility of finding solutions. It behooves individual members to do their part and support these organizations. Pool members should direct every possible bushel of grain to Pool elevators. Side by side, through our own efforts, we will triumph.

